

BRIEFS

KY. CLERK REFUSES SAME SEX LICENSE

ROWAN COUNTY, Ky. (BP) — A county clerk in Kentucky on Aug. 13 defied a federal judge's order to begin issuing marriage licenses to same sex couples, turning away two men who arrived at her office as soon as it opened. Kim Davis argues her Christian beliefs prevent her from issuing a same sex marriage license. "This case is not about couples who want to be married — they can easily get married in Kentucky," said Roger Gannam, senior litigation attorney for Liberty Counsel. "This case is about crushing dissent and removing Christian public servants from office. Religion tests for holding elected office are unconstitutional and un-American."

TENN. BAPTIST SCHOOL WITHDRAWS FROM CCCU

JACKSON, Tn. (BP) — Tennessee Baptist Convention-affiliated Union University in Jackson, Tn., will withdraw from the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) because of what a Union news release calls the council's "failure to respond appropriately to two member institutions that have endorsed same sex marriage." Goshen College in Indiana and Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia were cited by Union University as having changed their policies regarding same sex couples. Both schools are affiliated with the Mennonite Church USA.

FACILITIES USAGE CONSULT AVAILABLE

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — In light of the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 decision legalizing same sex marriage nationwide, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is offering a Facilities Usage Policy consultation to Southern Baptist churches in friendly cooperation with the convention. The consultation includes an in-house visit from trained MBCB personnel and written materials. There is no charge for the consultation. For more information or to schedule a consultation, call the MBCB Office of Church Growth at (601) 292-3310, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1851, ext. 310. E-mail: facilitiespolicy@mbcb.org.

Tax-exempt status safe under IRS?

Not so fast, says at least one expert

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — If the top bureaucrat at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is to be believed, the much feared federal agency will not revoke the tax-exempt status of religious organizations that object to same sex marriage.

However, tax advisors familiar with the IRS are urging caution. Michael Batts, a certified public



BATTS

accountant in Orlando, Fl., who specializes in nonprofit organizations, told Baptist Press (BP) some types of tax exemptions could still be in jeopardy.

"It is helpful to have correspondence from the sitting IRS commissioner that provides some minimal level of temporary assurance about

see IRS on p. 9



SUPER SUMMER 2015

More than 1,340 students attended Super Summer 2015 on July 13-17 at Mississippi College in Clinton. The annual event, sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is designed to equip the top students from Mississippi Baptist churches for a lifetime of evangelism and ministry. High standards such as Scripture memorization, Christian journaling, essays, and a high degree of involvement in evangelism and discipleship are some of the requirements for attendance. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

3 states take action to eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Three states have acted swiftly to accomplish what the U.S. Senate could not: defund Planned Parenthood.

Alabama, Louisiana, and New Hampshire all have eliminated funding for the country's leading abortion provider after the release of videos providing evidence that Planned Parenthood traffics in aborted baby body parts. Since mid-July, an investigative group has released five undercover videos that show Planned Parenthood officials discussing the sale of organs from aborted children for research. It is expected more videos will be released in the next few weeks.

Thirteen states have initiated investigations into Planned Parenthood, according to The Christian Science Monitor. After investigations in their states, Florida and Indiana officials have reported they found no evidence of violations by the organization regarding fetal tissue.

While some states have canceled contracts with Planned Parenthood, supporters of defunding in the U.S. Senate fell short in their attempt on Aug. 3.

Pro-life leaders continue to call for elimination of government money for Planned Parenthood, which receives

more than a half-billion taxpayer dollars each year and in turn contributes millions of dollars to the campaigns of politicians who approved the funding and defend Planned Parenthood.

The New Hampshire Executive Council voted Aug. 5 to reject contracts for Planned Parenthood in the state. The vote came along party lines, with the council's three Republican members in support of defunding.

The members of the New Hampshire council are elected to the executive branch body, which is unique among state governments in the United States.

Inside this issue

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Directions | 4 |
| Sunday School lessons | 11 |
| Editorial | |
| Bibliophet | |
| How to Become a Christian | |
| Revivals & Homecoming | |
| Just for the R | |
| Classifieds | |



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

No time to relax

It was a relief to hear that the federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will not be revoking the tax-exempt status of organizations that disagree with the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling/legislation that legalized same sex marriage across the country.

As reported elsewhere in this issue of *The Baptist Record*, IRS Commissioner John Koskinen spoke to the tax-exempt question at a July 29 congressional hearing when a senator asked him if he would commit not to tamper with the status of Christian colleges and universities that had policies against same sex marriage. Koskinen responded, "I can make that commitment."

On the surface, that's good news for Mississippi Baptists' three institutions of higher learning (William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Mississippi College in Clinton, and Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain), Southern Baptists' six seminaries, churches, and religious institutions in general, because one could certainly make the logical assumption that such entities would also be covered by Koskinen's commitment.

The next day, Koskinen signed a letter to Scott Pruitt, Oklahoma's attorney general, that states the IRS does not view the Supreme Court's same sex marriage ruling "as having changed the law applicable to section 501(c)(3) determinations or examinations. Therefore, the IRS will not, because of this decision, change existing standards in reviewing applications for recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(3) or in examining the qualification of section 501(c)(3) organizations."

The mention of 501(c)(3) refers to the IRS's granting of tax-exempt status to non-profit organizations whose activities include the furtherance of charitable, religious, educational, or several other specific purposes.

Let's not start celebrating just yet. While Koskinen's words are encouraging, they're just that — words. Koskinen is a political appointee who serves at the will and pleasure of U.S. President Barack Obama. Political appointees, at

least those who want to keep their jobs like Koskinen, usually check with their bosses before making such major policy announcements. Let's assume Koskinen has done so and the issue is settled.

However, if Koskinen didn't check with the boss and simply blurted his personal viewpoint, in coming days there could be a lot of backtracking along with a lot of attempts to explain the backtracking. Political appointees, in prior administrations as well as the current administration, have been known to have to do that so the boss won't look bad trying to explain the backtrack himself.

In addition, Koskinen and Obama aren't going to be in their respective offices forever. As a matter of fact, the U.S. will have a new president — and presumably a new IRS director — in less than a year and a half. How will the next president and his political appointee to the IRS feel about the issue? What if the U.S. Congress gets involved (shudder) and muddies the water?

Now is not the time to let down our guard. Politicians and bureaucrats have been known to deceive us in the past. Even under the best of circumstances, people and policies change. We really don't know what the future holds on this issue, despite soothing assurances from our leaders.

In light of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision legalizing same sex marriage nationwide, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) offers a Facilities Usage Policy consultation to Southern Baptist churches in friendly cooperation with the convention.

The consultation includes an in-house visit from trained MBCB personnel and written materials. There is no charge for the consultation. For more information or to schedule a consultation, call the MBCB Office of Church Growth at (601) 292-3310, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 310. E-mail: facilitiespolicy@mbcb.org.

Be prepared. Don't let up on your church's planning for a worst case scenario. Be vigilant, so you won't be surprised. Most of all, keep praying.

Planned Parenthood, or Purposeful Deception?

I am appalled at the implicit approval of Planned Parenthood's egregious — even heinous — activities relating to the sale of fetal parts as if they were auto salvage parts.

In the first place, if a fetus is not human, why do fetal parts substitute so well in the bodies of humans? The sale of fetal parts is so despicable and inhumane that it is an intuitively unacceptable behavior, even among many who approve of abortions. I fear the acceptance of such a self-evident, destructive societal activity forebodes trouble- some-ly for the United States.

The justification our lame legislative leaders give us for supporting such incredulous acts of inhumanity is that Planned Parenthood does so many "good things" to help women. I am astounded at the naivety of such a comment. I am left to wonder if our political gurus actually believe this themselves, or if they feel so superior that they actually believe their personal approval will translate into subordination of the moral compass of the masses.

No one likes to consider the historical analogy of Hitler's Germany but if we are so unmovable in our approval of such heartless atrocities, then we are blind to the evolving consequences. Even at a very young age I understood that two wrongs never make a right. It is impossible to accept the evil practice of selling fetal parts, even if they are wrapped in gilded paper and adorned with silver bows.

Like it or not — admit it or not — that was what happened in Hitler's Germany. In retrospect, we can all recognize the evil perpetuated by Hitler on a proud and hurting people. What we don't like to notice is the wrapping paper Hitler used to decorate his evil programs.

During the early years of the Great Depression, Hitler took over the German banking system, issued Reichsmarks, and saved the German currency. He created a thriving economy with virtually no unemployment. Hitler created a culture that cherished music. He strongly discouraged smoking and linked it to lung cancer.



Guest opinion
with David Ball

In spite of all this, no decent American would approve of Hitler's "governance." We know, and even Germany knows, the evil deeds of Hitler can never be justified by whatever good you find that he might have accomplished.

Watching the undercover films of Planned Parenthood's willful selling of fetal body parts, I have painfully similar feelings to watching the atrocities of Jews being herded like cattle to the gas chambers in Hitler's Germany. Good people allowed this to happen because they had become conditioned by the rhetoric of mesmerizing voices of people in high places.

I ask you a simple question: Are we, as citizens of the United States, going to allow the government to continue to tell us what is right and what is wrong, or are we willing to face the beast we created and call its bluff at the polls?

The Bible says, *You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. Psalm 139:13-16 (NLT)*

If this passage is true, we have no choice but to respect and protect the unborn. All we have to do is decide if the passage is true...

Ball is a Batesville physician and deacon at First Church, Batesville.

THE BaptistRecord

Editor

William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor

Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design

Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising

Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager

Amy Massey
amassey@mbcb.org

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:

Camille Anding, Etta T. R. Darsey, Winone Whit Lewis, New Albany Derrick Wilson, Kosciusko Carolyn Reeves, Oxford Garland Boyd, Brookhaven

Postmaster:

Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

BAPTISTS

VOLUME 139 • NUMBER 33 • ISSN 0005-5778
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Dual bombings rock New Mexico churches

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (BP) — Small bombs that exploded within minutes of each other Aug. 2 at two Las Cruces, N.M., churches — including a Southern Baptist congregation — led to the cancellation of Sunday morning services and evacuations at other churches across the city.

No one was hurt in the explosions that caused minimal damage at the Southern Baptist church, Calvary Church on S. Locust St., and Holy Cross Catholic Church on N. Miranda St., the Associated Press (AP) reported. No arrests have yet been made but New Mexico state police described the bombs as improvised explosive devices designed to cause harm.

About 50 worshippers had already gathered for the 8:30 a.m. traditional service at Calvary Church when the bomb exploded at 8:20 a.m. in a mailbox attached to the building, Scott Rodgers, pastor of core groups, told Baptist Press.

Worshippers remained calm as police arrived and evacuated the church, ushering individuals to the church's south parking lot, Rodgers said. He preached the Sunday morning service in the parking lot, as youth arts pastor Gregg Higgins led music.

The 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services were cancelled, as police blocked adjacent streets while investigating the crime. Rodgers estimated combined Sunday morning attendance at Calvary Church is normally about 400.

Mass had already convened at Holy Cross Catholic Church when a bomb exploded in a plastic trash can outside a church window around 8:40 a.m. as 200 were preparing for communion, AP reported. The bomb damaged a glass entryway, and parishioners exited a separate door.

Several churches in Las Cruces ended or cancelled Sunday services after the explosions, Albuquerque Journal News reported.

Newly-called Calvary Church pastor Kevin Glenn was spending his first Sunday in Las Cruces in preparation

for his new pastorate. "Fortunately, I've been able to deal with other security issues at churches in the past," Glenn told Baptist Press. "You never like to have experiences like that, but that's allowed me to really know what the next steps are going to be for us at Calvary, to make some adjustments and increase some awareness on ways that we can make the campus more secure and help folks to understand we can worship faithfully and freely but also have our eyes open and be vigilant."

The crimes are already uniting the community in prayer, as dozens attended an interfaith prayer vigil Aug. 2 at Pioneer Park. Glenn and John Anderson, monsignor of the Catholic congregation, have discussed tentative thoughts for an ecumenical ministry outreach in response to the bombings.

"It has really pulled the faith community of Las Cruces together," Glenn said, "and there are a lot of people praying at this time for safety and for the folks that did it to be brought to justice, but also that whatever it was that motivated such hate would be overcome with peace."

Multiple state and federal agencies are involved in the investigation, including New Mexico State Police, the FBI, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

New Mexico Gov. Susanna Martinez has said those guilty of bombing the churches "will feel the full pressure of the law."

God's presence was evident as the Sunday service approached, Rodgers said. "I had studied for a sermon for three days and got up on Saturday morning and sensed that the Lord was saying that that's not what I needed to preach on Sunday... He took me to the story of David and Goliath and led me to see how important it is that whenever we're faced with a difficult circumstance, that we not look at the size of our situation, but we look at the size of our God."

"It has really pulled the faith community of Las Cruces together, and there are a lot of people praying at this time for safety and for the folks that did it to be brought to justice, but also that whatever it was that motivated such hate would be overcome with peace."

Kevin Glenn

Calvary Church pastor



BIG DIG — Football players and other volunteers from Ole Miss work through difficult terrain in sweltering heat on a section of a water line designed to distribute safe water to residents of Camp Marie, Haiti. Their mission trip earlier this year was a success when fresh, clean water flowed to the impoverished residents of the small village. (BP special photo)

Mission to Haiti opens eyes of 'spoiled' football players

OXFORD, Miss. (BP) — When University of Mississippi defensive end John Youngblood takes a break during the team's practices, he isn't likely to take that drink of cold, clean water for granted. In the locker room, Youngblood, an Ole Miss junior, and teammate Christian Russell, a senior linebacker, likely will have greater appreciation for a refreshing shower.

The players' gratitude for fresh, convenient water and other common necessities stems from a mission trip to Haiti last spring with 11 teammates among the volunteers who helped to provide safe water for a village of 7,000 people.

"A lot of guys had no idea the struggles of other cultures and the poverty — how bad things are there," said Youngblood, who visited the village, Camp Marie, during a similar spring break trip in 2014.

"We're kind of spoiled," Russell said. "We tend to complain, when in reality, we're really blessed." The people of Camp Marie spend their days "trying to find clean water" amid concerns about "where the next meal is coming from," Russell said.

One important necessity for which Camp Marie residents no longer struggle is finding safe, clean water. Until recently, residents were drinking untreated water from a spring, but that changed in late June when the village's water project was completed.

Ole Miss football team chaplain John Powell, who organized the mission trip, noticed Camp Marie's circumstances during the 2014 trip to Haiti. "[We] saw that there wasn't enough clean water

at Camp Marie, but people were drinking and using it anyway," said Powell, a member of First Church, Oxford, where the university is located.

In addition to the players and Powell, fourth-year head coach Hugh Freeze and his family were among the volunteers, along with coach Maurice Harris and his daughter, three team managers, and two Ole Miss students.

Powell said the water project was begun by volunteers with a Christian ministry called 410 Bridge. "They started the water project while we were there. We tapped into the water source and helped build a buried clean water line." That line takes the water into a disinfection system prior to distributing it at several tap stands in Camp Marie.

In addition to helping build a safe water system, the Ole Miss team's mission included sharing with the people of Camp Marie how to find the "living water" of salvation. "We divided into groups and went to the homes and prayed with people in the village," Powell said. "We went to the church on Sunday. One of our guys sang."

That guy is Russell, who noted, "As I was singing and playing the piano, they couldn't understand what I was singing" but "could feel me through God's Spirit."

Powell said at least two people with whom they talked and prayed made professions of faith in Christ, including a woman with a disability who was considered an outcast. "She said she wanted to know God. I explained the Gospel to her and she prayed to receive Christ."

Powell said a teenage boy with whom he and Freeze, a member

of North Oxford Church, talked also prayed to receive Christ.

In addition to worshipping, praying, and sharing the Gospel, "We taught them how to throw a football," which they had never seen before, Powell recounted. "The girls and women did crafts with the younger children. We played soccer with them."

The best part of the trip for Youngblood was "just playing with the kids," to "be with them and give them time and attention."

"You can't understand what they're saying, but you can understand body language. They just want to hold your hand and it's great to see how loving and accepting they are," Youngblood said.

Russell said the experience changed his outlook on life. The people of Camp Marie "have pretty much nothing," he said. "They care for one another regardless of the little they have."

After seeing the Ole Miss volunteers serving others in an unfamiliar and challenging situation, Powell said he hopes they will now "look for opportunities to put others before themselves and to understand what it means to love your neighbor as yourself, to live that way in this country, not just when they're serving in another country and culture. Not being served, but to serve."

Freeze expressed a similar hope in an email: "One of the greatest qualities a human being can have is an active service toward others and putting others and their needs ahead of themselves. There is no question that on these trips our players see that there are others that have greater needs than we do, and hopefully it spurs them on to be a lifelong giver."

I was on the way to preach one Sunday morning and was going through a section of a town with which I was not familiar. I'd been through the town many times but never remembered going through this part of town. Since it was new and different I had my eyes wide open and was taking in all the sites and features of the community, and I saw a Baptist church. Some people were gathering at it, getting ready to worship. I slowly went by the church. I looked in the adjoining property to the church property that had a sign out front that said, "Scrap Yard," and it listed the times it was open and what you could get there. Out behind the sign there were a building and wrecked and ruined cars and pieces of cars and trucks and tractors and no telling what other things you could find out there, but it surely was a scrap yard.

What made such an impression on me was that the church and the scrap yard were right by each other and I quickly thought how both of them are in the same business. You see, you don't get in the scrap yard unless you're wrecked and pretty much ruined, maybe even rusted and broken. That is just about the same description of the folks in the Lord's church. In fact, one of the pre-requisites of getting into a church — and more importantly into the family of God and the kingdom of our Lord — is that you have got to recognize that you are broken, wounded, bruised, messed up. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

Now for us to recognize and confess that we're sinners is somewhat easy for many people because they are assuming that all they have to do is to acknowledge that they have sinned and you don't have to go into all the gory, painful, honestly gut-wrenching sinfulness that has affected our lives, and so we somewhat confess to God that we're sinners but not too bad of sinners. In fact, at worst we're kind of moderate sinners but the absolute truth



Scrap Yard

is that if you're a sinner, you're a sinner and the Bible says of our sin, "The wages of sin" — sin, singular — "is death" (Rom. 6:23). Every one of us has sinned and every one of us deserves death. All of us are actually thrown on the scrap pile of life. We have crashed at points, broken down, gone flat, run out of gas, hit a tree, ignored the traffic signs, and generally all around messed up and so we end up in the scrap yard. You might think about translating Romans 3:23 something like, "We have all crashed, broken down and are now far less our potential than what God made us for."

You see it's the folks in the scrap yard for whom Jesus came and died. The only reason a car or a truck or a piece of machinery is in the scrap yard is because it has been broken up or down or in or out. I have known of several different churches that had a scrap iron Sunday School class. They're usually self-named and they take delight in telling that they don't really fit anywhere else and that no one else really wants them. They like to think of themselves as misfits and unusables and so they cluster together in their Sunday school classes and see themselves as nothing, teachers and technicians all of whom may have felt a little out of place with some of

the kind of religious people at the church. There they were in the scrap iron group. What they didn't know and maybe what some overly self-righteous people in the church didn't know is that all of us are the same and no one needs to feel out of place, less qualified, or unappreciated than anybody else. In fact the whole church should have a sign out front: Scrap Yard. All of us should understand that we've messed up and we have been graced up by God which makes us in good standing with Him and with each other.

You see, when Jesus came He was clear and to the point when He said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). He did not come looking for the super righteous. He did not come searching for the above-and-beyond-better-than-everybody-else super folks. He came looking for folks that were scarred by sin and in need of a Savior. He came looking for the no-goods and the messed-ups, the broken-downs and the proud Americans.

I have known people through the years who just absolutely love going to the scrap yards. They can walk through there and see crashed cars and dilapidated old vehicles and spot just the perfect fit for

something they need. It seems that spiritually, Jesus has that wonderful quality, a redemptive quality to take something that was on the scrap heap and use it for a perfect fit for God's glory. He could walk along the seashore and spot a crude, rough fisherman and realize, "He is just what I'm looking for in spite of the fact that he is not perfect and that he will have his moments of being impetuous and do the wrong thing at the right time and the right thing at the wrong time and even deny that he knows Me." The Lord touched his life brought him through one experience after another and said, "You will be my preacher on the day of Pentecost. You will launch the telling of the story of the Good News that I died for the sins of every man."

Can the Lord use you? Oh, He sure can. He can take a murderer like Moses and pick him up off the scrap heap and make him into the first great leader of Israel. He can take a backslider like Jonah and send him to the school of prayer in the belly of the fish and use him as the great preacher for national revival. He can take an adulterer like David who squandered his influence in a wrong relationship and make him a leader and a builder.

The church is not supposed to be a sterile place for super-righteous people to come and act holy. It could be better described as a scrap yard where God Himself can take broken parts and replace them, busted hearts and renew them, discarded lives and give them meaning and purpose. When you get to church Sunday, just look around and you will see the scrap yard. Now, don't spend all your time looking at your fellow worshippers, but rather spend time looking at yourself and all the pieces and parts that God has renewed, reclaimed, redone to put you in the place where He wants you to be — right there in the scrap yard with all the other folks letting God bless and use them.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Staff Changes



CARTERVILLE CHURCH, PETAL, has called Ben Skipper as lead pastor. He previously served the church as Associate Pastor and Minister to Students.



FIRST CHURCH, RIPLEY, has called Micah Carter as pastor. He is shown with his wife, Meredith, and sons Benjamin and Jonathan. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Southern Seminary.



STAR CHURCH, STAR, has called Lee Brewer as pastor. He has served on church staff for 15 years in Mississippi, South Carolina, and Georgia. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southeastern Seminary. He has a wife, Emily, and two boys, LJ and Cayden Stark.

College News



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY nursing student Morgan Naramore Laxer of Saucier is shown a patient's blood pressure during a recent evangelical mission trip to Villa de San Francisco, Honduras, from May 24-31. Laxer and 10 other nursing students, along with Assistant Professor of Nursing Felicia Browning, joined a team organized by Baptist Medical and Dental Mission International to share the Gospel and assist the needy in the small Honduras municipality.



Shown at the **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** commencement ceremony on August 7 are Ph.D. in nursing education and administration graduates (from left) Rachel Gibson of Biloxi, DeDe Shows of Hattiesburg and Jaimie Tibbler of Ocean Springs. More than 450 students received degrees during the largest August commencement in the university's history on Friday and on Saturday, August 8.



Steve Knight, athletic director and head coach of men's basketball at **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY**, was inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame during the 2015 induction ceremony in Jackson on August 1. Knight is the state's all-time winningest basketball coach with 610 victories.

Missionary dies in stateside traffic accident

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. (BP) — Southern Baptist missionary Kyra Lynn Karr, 30, was killed August 13 in a traffic accident in Georgia, just one day before she and her family planned to return to their mission assignment in Italy.

News reports indicate a tractor-trailer driver exited his vehicle to conduct an inspection, but the safety brake was not engaged and the truck began to roll. The truck hit the pickup in which Karr was travel-



KARR

ing, crushing it against the highway guardrail on U.S. 41 in Bartow County.

Karr died at the scene. Her husband Reid and their two youngest children were transported to nearby hospitals, where they were treated and released. Their oldest child was not with them at the time.

The tractor-trailer driver, Ivan Delgado, 52, of Rome, N.Y., was arrested and charged with DUI, police said.

Don Hattaway, pastor of Tabernacle Church in Cartersville, Ga., described Karr as "one of the most wonderful, godly young ladies you could know. She was energetic, kind, articulate, beautiful, and a great mother and wife."

The Karrs, who spoke at Tabernacle Church on Aug. 9, had been in the U.S. since mid-June and were returning home after a family outing Thursday evening to prepare to fly back to Italy the next day. Hattaway and a group had worked with the Karrs in Italy earlier this summer, and he recalled Kyra's commitment to her family's

work among churches, university students, and planting a church.

"Kyra was part of a street ministry to those caught in sex trafficking as well as to refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea into Italy," he noted.

The Karrs were appointed as missionaries in 2009 by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and have been serving in Rome. They were about to begin their third term of service after a brief stateside assignment.

Kyra Karr was a graduate of the University of Georgia and grew up

in Tabernacle Church. She and her family also were connected to Sojourn Community Church in Louisville, Ky.

Karr is survived by her husband Reid; her children, Nodyn, Ellie, and Livia; her parents, Joseph and Karen Carp; her sisters, Chelsey Carp and Sydney Shadle.

Funeral services were held Aug. 19, at Tabernacle Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Tabernacle Church for the Italian church plant with which the Karrs worked, Brecchia Di Roma, and its ministry efforts.

BIBLIOCIPHER

PCZ EPVX RC VTNK, PM YBDRMU PVMT
BPUB VTNKZ GM, PCZ BPUB ORNKC
BRHMKVW WTD GM PC TWWKDRCO PCZ
P MPYDRWRYK UT OTZ WTD P MEK-
KUMHKVVRCO MPNTGD.
KIBKMRPCM WRNK: UET

Clue: $N = V$

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark 3:29

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

2015 SBC annual meeting attendance up from last year

NASHVILLE (BP) — A total of 5,407 messengers registered at the 2015 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Columbus, Oh., slightly topping the 2014 annual meeting messenger count of 5,298, according to SBC registration secretary Jim Wells, Cooperative Program missionary for strategic partnerships at the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Including guests and others, total attendance at the annual meeting and its related events was estimated at between 8,000-9,000.

Messengers, sometimes compared to delegates, are chosen by individual SBC churches to attend the annual meeting and set the course for convention's business and ministries for the upcoming year. Most state Baptist conventions, which are separate from the SBC, operate in a similar manner, including the Mississippi Baptist Convention.



PRAYING FOR REVIVAL — A standing-room-only crowd participated in a National Call to Prayer on the evening of June 16 during the Southern Baptist Convention's 2015 annual meeting in Columbus, Oh. (BP photo)

Messengers were sent from 2,349 churches in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Churches in Montana, North Dakota, and Rhode Island sent no messengers.

Most messengers were male (3,499), and 2,750 of them were ordained. Only 358 messengers, 6.6% of those registered, completed the registration survey. Of those, 146 were senior pastors and 38 were the wives of senior pastors, according to surveys submitted.

By age, 23 of those who submitted surveys were 18-29, compared to 50 between 30-39; 123 between 40-59; and 122 ages 60 and above.

Not surprisingly, Ohio had the greatest number of messengers present, at 714. Tennessee was second with 459 messengers. Mississippi was in the approximate middle of the pack, with 181 messengers. Guam, Oregon, Maine, and Vermont each sent one messenger.

In Columbus, messengers approved changes to Articles 3 and 14, and SBC Bylaw 8 regarding messenger qualifications. Each cooperating church

that contributes to convention causes during the preceding fiscal year will automatically qualify for two messengers.

The convention will recognize 10 additional messengers from a cooperating church under one of the following options:

- One additional messenger for each full percent of undesignated receipts the church contributed during the previous fiscal year through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the convention's Executive Committee for convention causes, and/or to any convention entity; or

- One additional messenger for each \$6,000 the church contributes in the preceding year through the Cooperative Program, designated gifts through the Executive Committee for convention causes, or to any SBC entity.

Before the change, Article 3 stated that churches in friendly cooperation with the convention were entitled to one messenger and could send one additional messenger for every 250 members or for each \$250 per year "paid to the work of the Convention." The \$250 amount dates back to 1888.

JONES COUNTY BIBLE CONFERENCE

AUGUST 23-25, 2015

SALEM HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH | LAUREL, MS

SPEAKERS

DR. JOHN SULLIVAN

SUN. AUG. 23 - 10:15 A.M.

MON. AUG. 24 - 12:00 P.M.

TUE. AUG. 25 - 12:00 P.M.

DR. ROBERT SMITH

SUN. AUG. 23 - 6:00 P.M.

DR. JEFF LABORG

MON. AUG. 24 - 6:30 P.M.

DR. TED TRAYLOR

TUES. AUG. 25 - 6:30 P.M.

MUSIC

Each evening session will be led by a choir combining the talents of each participating church.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

During each evening session, a worship service will be provided for all children K-6th grade.

MIDDAY SERVICES

12:00-1:00 p.m. at SHBC - Come when you can; leave when you must.

601-763-7571 | WWW.SALEMHEIGHTS.ORG

Just for the Record



INGOMAR CHURCH, UNION COUNTY ASSOCIATION, broke ground for their new sanctuary July 26. The church celebrated with a BYOS (bring your own shovel) day. Terry Cutrer, pastor.



SEMINARY CHURCH, SEMINARY, held a ceremonial Blessing of the Backpacks with a covenant prayer over all the children and teachers for the 2015 school year. Jennifer McNair, children's director.



FIRST CHURCH, BOYLE, held a baby dedication July 26. Shown are George III and Mary Evans with daughter Hattie Kathryn. Clarence Edwards, pastor.

In other Church News:

➤ **North Columbia Church, Columbia**, will host comedian Dennis Swanberg Aug. 24, 6:30 p.m.

➤ **First Church, Brandon**, is hosting an Explorers Bible Study on The Only True God beginning Sept. 8, 9:15 a.m., at the church's College Street campus. To pre-register and for information, call Rita Latham, (601) 919-0991.

➤ **Poplar Springs Church, Newton**, will host the Pearl Quartet Aug. 22, 7 p.m.



Youth from **LIBERTY HILL CHURCH, POPE**, attended a mission trip to Louisville, Ky., to help needy neighborhoods. Derrick Simmons, pastor.



PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, hosted kickoff and registration of their Wednesday night children and youth programs. Floyd Higginbotham, pastor.



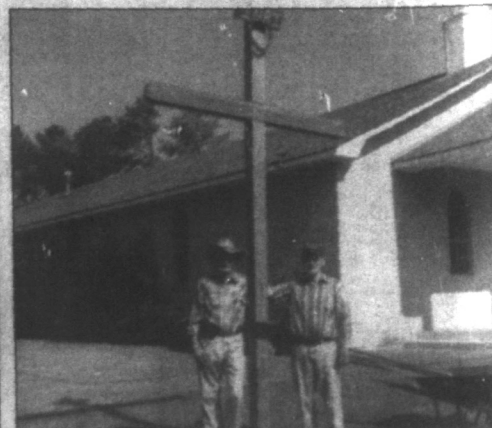
FAIR RIVER CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN: VBS June 8 - 12, with an enrollment of 107. Amy Anderson, director; Jay Anderson, pastor.



FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, ABERDEEN, erected a new flagpole July 22 at the entrance of the church. The Christian flag was put on the new flagpole for the first time. Shown are pastor Rick Burton and Frank Record.



Gunter and Gavin Bennet, **UNION HALL CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, joined with youth from Clear Branch Church to attend Kingdom Builders summer camp.



MAIN STREET CHURCH, MENDENHALL, erected a 14-foot cross in the church's front lawn in July. Shown are Jimmy Strahan and Gary Amason.

Just for the Record



FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, MCCOMB, held a Hunger and Thirst Games lock-in July 31, with 34 youth in attendance.



LIBERTY HILL CHURCH, POPE held Vacation Bible School. Shown is the age 3 - 12 grade group, averaging 103. Derrick Simmons, pastor.



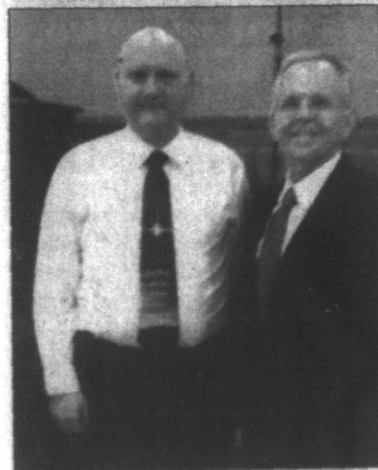
NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, SCOTT COUNTY ASSOCIATION, held the groundbreaking for their new facilities in Morton Aug. 9. Shown are co-pastors Billy Ray Parker and Jeff Jones, AMD Reggie Williams, and elders of the church.

LINE CREEK CHURCH, MORTON, held a baby dedication service for Mari Latham Pickett. Shown are parents and grandparents Pam and Jimbo Moore, Kayleigh, Jake and Mari Latham Pickett, pastor Tai Vardaman, and Betty and Kent Pickett.



FIRST CHURCH, COLLINSVILLE, ordained three men as deacons after their completion of yokemen training. Shown are pastor Wade Ricks, StephAnie and Brad Smith, David and Amy Huckaby, and Tammy and Chris Cornett.

PINE GROVE CHURCH, PICAYUNE, recently ordained (from left) Brannon Veazey, Tom Greder, Paul Pellegrine, Robbie Miller, Howard Barrett, and Robert Zar as deacons. Cody Warren, pastor.



OAK HILL CHURCH, MERIDIAN, recently ordained Jonathan Whiten as deacon. Shown are Whiten, left, and pastor Mike Russell.



The children and adults of **BLUFF SPRINGS CHURCH, MAGNOLIA**, went to New Orleans to the Aquarium of the Americas and the IMAX theater.



Kenny White, music minister at **MT. HOREB CHURCH, Collins**, was honored by his family and church for 50 years of music ministry in Mississippi churches. He was presented with a book of letters from the 13 churches he served, and Mt. Horeb purchased the 2008 edition of the Baptist Hymnal for use in the church. He also received a photo album and was honored at a reception.

City rallies against second LGBT ordinance attempt

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (BP) — Opponents of a proposed anti-discrimination ordinance in Fayetteville, Ar., heard Oregon bakers Aaron and Melissa Klein underscore the cause of religious liberty during an Aug. 11 rally at University Church in Fayetteville.

Leaders of Protect Fayetteville who sponsored the rally say Ordinance 5781 would infringe on First Amendment religious freedoms. Proponents, meanwhile, say it would protect the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) community from being denied service, housing, or employment based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The proposed ordinance is slated for a vote Sept. 8 in the city of 80,000 people where the University of Arkansas is located. Voters recently turned back a first attempt to pass LGBT protections. Undeterred, council members are now making a second attempt as passage.

The Kleins, owners of the Oregon bakery Sweet Cakes, face a \$135,000 fine for discrimination after refusing to bake a cake for a lesbian wedding. They addressed the rally's 200-plus attendees.

The proposed ordinance "leaves the door wide open to force people to adhere to something they don't want to adhere to," Aaron Klein said in an interview with KNWA-TV.

Protect Fayetteville warns, "Under this ordinance, any baker, florist or photographer, event planner, printer, etc. who has a deeply held religious objection to forced participation in same-sex weddings could face prosecution if they decline to photograph, decorate a cake or provide a floral arrangement for a same sex ceremony, reception, or event.

"This includes forcing ministers to perform same sex weddings."

Bill Collins, a Fayetteville-area business owner who attended the Aug. 11 rally at University Church, told another local TV station, KFSM, he believes the proposed ordinance may affect fellow business owners.

"If things go terribly wrong, you could lose everything," Collins said. "It is going to change how they do business, how they interact with the public, and it is just going to be one more thing that is going to interfere with their ability to make a profit."

The Fayetteville City Council voted 6-2 June 16 to pass on to voters Ordinance 5781 extending protection in existing anti-discrimination laws



IN OPPOSITION — Oregon bakers Melissa (left) and Aaron Klein were among the speakers at a rally in Fayetteville, Ar., urging voters to reject for the second time a proposed anti-discrimination ordinance for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) community. (BP screen capture courtesy of nwhompage.com)

to LGBT citizens and visitors. Critics say the proposed ordinance largely rehashes an earlier anti-discrimination measure, Chapter 119, adopted by the Fayetteville City Council on Aug. 20 of last year but repealed by voters 52%-48% percent on Dec. 9.

Proponents vowed to revisit the issue and put it before voters again. "It's not much different than the first one," Ron Lomax, director of missions for Washington Madison Association said in the Arkansas Baptist News on July 16. "It's worded a little bit different, but the intent is the same. We'll be encouraging our people to vote it down again."

While the ordinance exempts churches and religious organizations, Lomax noted: "Christians are not excluded. If you own a bakery or you are a florist... you would still be taken to court or fined for deciding not to do a wedding or something like that, so it doesn't protect Christians."

Protect Fayetteville also warns that the proposed ordinance would pose "serious safety concerns for women and children."

"Ordinance 5781 requires that businesses and non-religious organizations must allow males, claiming to be transgender, into all accommodations of the female sex, including bathrooms, changing areas, showers, and overnight shelter areas such as in women's shelters and youth camps."

"A business owner, employee, or organizational member who interferes with the so-called 'right' of a man to use female facilities can find himself or herself subject to criminal prosecution."

If the ordinance passes, the Fayetteville City Council can "amend it and take away the exemptions, increase punishments, and expand their 'so-called' definition of sexual orientation," Protect Fayetteville warns.

The proposed ordinance also will create a seven-member Civil Rights Commission to enforce the measure with the assistance of Fayetteville's city attorney. Violating the law would result in a \$100 fine for a first offense, according to language in Ordinance 5781, which does not specify the amount of fines for additional offenses.

The text of the proposed ordinance can be accessed at fayettevillear.gov/Document-Center/Home/View/6529.

MS POSITIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN W. HATTIESBURG HAS AN OPENING FOR A PART-TIME SECRETARY, 4 days per week approx 6 hrs per day. Starting pay is \$9.00 per hr. MS Office and Quickbooks is a plus. Contact 601-818-0341 or email resume to paulyoung8501@comcast.net.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, A SMALL COUNTRY CHURCH BETWEEN DREW AND RULEVILLE, MISS. IN SUNFLOWER COUNTY, IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resumes to P.O. Box 249, Drew, Miss. 38737.

SMITHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME STUDENT MINISTER. Please send resume to Smithville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 52, Smithville, MS 38770.

OAK HILL CHURCH IN MERIDIAN IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME CHURCH SECRETARY. Send resume to P.O. Box 3938, Meridian, MS 39303.

EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH IN INDIANOLA, MS. IS IN SEARCH OF A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, Ms. 38751 or e-mail to Shirley Belts at s.belts@bellsouth.net.

GUNTER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH IN FLORENCE, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please submit resumes to Gunter Road Search Committee C/O Craig Dukes 2209 Woodland Place Florence, MS 39073 or rdukes@bellsouth.net.

BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME CHRISTIAN, COMPASSIONATE CHURCH SECRETARY with a minimum of 1 year experience performing general office work. Excellent computer knowledge and telephone skills will be a plus. Resumes will ONLY be accepted by mail: Search Committee, 510 Lake Valley Drive, Starkville, MS 39759 or by e-mail: sr_parks@bellsouth.net

CLASSIFIEDS

ILLINOIS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME SEEKS AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REPLACE CURRENT DIRECTOR'S RETIREMENT THE END OF 2016. Applications are to be received by January 2016 to fill the position by October 2016. Go to www.bchfs.com/employment.html for details.

FIVE CEMETERY PLOTS IN CHRISTUS GARDENS OF LAKEWOOD SOUTH. Appraised for \$2000 each; will sell for \$1500 each. Four together, one separate. 601-853-2263.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., OLD BIBLES REBOUND. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-453-6743.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, MERIDIAN. DESIGN, FABRICATION, REPAIR. heidbergstainedglass.com or call 800-368-2705.

RAGGEROOS: A COMEDY WASHTUB BAND. We sing, play instruments, and tell jokes. Call us at 601-857-0736.

READY TO SELL YOUR BUSINESS? We specialize in the confidential sale of businesses to qualified buyers. We work one-on-one with business owners from coaching through closing to get your business SOLD. Learn more at www.CapitalSouthBusinessAlliance.com For a no-pressure, no-obligation meeting call David Young at 601-942-9722 or email: csdavid32@gmail.com

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-505-2970

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

OAK CHURCH PEWS WITH CUSHIONS, \$12.50 per foot, Hickory Grove, Sumrall. Contact 601-299-0638 for information.

GATLINBURG RENTAL: Cabin \$95/night. Contact: 832-922-0401 or Email: pdw4760@gatt.net for information and booking.

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

WINDOW AND SCREEN SHOP — windows and storm windows built to fit your opening. Plus new window screens and rescreen old screens. Call Tom Cook 601-709-4879.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6517.

WWW.SEBRENHOMEIMPROVEMENT.COM. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebrén. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners, lowest prices on the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com, 205-556-0368, 205-752-1231, 251-752-2366.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Michigan Baptists take new Detroit statue in stride

DETROIT, Mich. (BP) — Michigan Baptists will not waver in their efforts to spread the Gospel throughout their state, even after The Satanic Temple (TST) unveiled a bronze, nine-foot-tall statue of Baphomet in Detroit, says Tim Patterson, executive director for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

"People have been worshipping Satan since Satan fell from heaven," Patterson notes. "That is nothing new at all. I think what is new about it is the public way it is being portrayed in the media. I'm not up in arms about it. I'm not worried about it, and Michigan Baptists should not be worried about it either."

"Our concern is what we've been called to do, and we've been called to proclaim the Gospel, to plant churches, and to make a difference for the kingdom... Our job is to punch holes in the darkness, and that's what we're going to be about."

Nearly 700 people gathered July 25 in a Detroit warehouse around midnight for the un-

veiling of the Baphomet monument, which TST unsuccessfully tried to erect beside a 10 Commandments monument in Oklahoma two years ago.

According to The Christian Post, TST spokesperson Lucien Greaves said people received an e-ticket revealing the secret location of the event only after signing a contract giving their souls to the devil. According to Time magazine, TST also overestimated the popularity of the event, telling possible attendees that it would be "the largest public satanic ceremony in history."

Time magazine also called Baphomet the "totem of contemporary Satanism." The Detroit monument displays this demonic figure enthroned underneath a pentagram, with one child on each side looking up at its face in wonder.

Despite its centuries-old association with the occult, Baphomet is nowhere mentioned in Scripture, according to Ryan Stokes, an assistant professor of Old Testament at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth and author of a

forthcoming book tentatively called, *The Rise of Satan: Sin, Suffering, and the Superhuman in the Hebrew Scriptures and Early Jewish Literature*.

Nevertheless, Stokes says, the Bible clearly affirms the reality of Satan and other demonic beings who were created by God but who are in rebellion against God. "According to the Bible, there are these spiritual beings out there that we would call evil spirits or demons or Satan, and the Bible says that they are responsible for a number of problems in the world including sickness, in certain cases, and they are responsible for misleading humans into sin."

"The Bible is clear also that God has defeated these beings, but that nevertheless people continue to be seduced by them."

The Bible also speaks of Satan's demand for worship from Jesus in Matthew 4 and Luke 4, and it refers to pagan idolatry as practiced today in Buddhism and Hinduism, for examples, as the worship of demons (1 Corinthians 10:19-21).



SATANIC MONUMENT

"The Bible does seem to say that people who worship gods other than the God of the Bible are worshipping demons," Stokes says, "so the worship of demonic beings doesn't seem to be unique, according to the way that the Bible describes false religion."

"On the other hand, explicitly to identify that figure who is God's enemy as the object of one's worship does seem to be a more blatant statement — not just in favor of another god, but a statement in opposition to the God of the Bible."

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

IRS

cont. from p. 1

the position of current IRS officials, but the commissioner's comments on federal tax-exempt status for religious organizations do not establish legal authority on the matter and they are not the end of the story," Batts noted in written comments to BP.

"Leaders of religious organizations must also keep in mind that federal income tax exemption is only one front with respect to this issue," Batts continued. "State and local tax exemptions of various types, as well as other areas of law [such as] housing, zoning, and land use are administered by countless agencies all over the country."

"Federal, state, and local officials administering these other areas of law are not bound by the comments of the IRS commissioner or, for the most part, by federal tax law."

Christian organizations that object to same sex marriage "will be seeking much greater and broader assurance" related to tax exemptions, Batts said.

IRS Commissioner John Koskinen's first promise occurred at a U.S. Senate Judiciary Oversight Subcommittee hearing July 29 in which Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) asked the Obama appointee whether he could commit, "in the absence of a directive by Congress or by the courts," to not "take any action to remove the tax-exempt status from

Christian colleges and universities based on their belief that marriage is between a man and a woman."

Koskinen responded, "I can make that commitment," and went on to explain that any policy change will be preceded by an opportunity for public comment.

"There would be no surprises" relative to the revocation of tax-exempt status for colleges and universities, Koskinen said. If there were a change in regulations, "the public would have plenty of notice and plenty of opportunity to comment, and that's not going to happen in the next two and a half years."

Koskinen wrote in a July 30 letter to Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, a Republican, that the "IRS does not view" the Supreme Court's same sex marriage ruling "as having changed the law applicable to section 501(c)(3) determinations or examinations. Therefore, the IRS will not, because of this decision, change existing standards in reviewing applications for recognition of exemption under section 501(c)(3) or in examining the qualification of section 501(c)(3) organizations."

Pruitt, a trustee at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., called Koskinen's promises not to revoke the tax-exempt status of religious organizations "a victory for religious freedom in America and for the non-profit charities, churches and religiously affiliated universities who feared they would be denied tax-exempt sta-

"It is helpful to have correspondence from the sitting IRS commissioner that provides some minimal level of temporary assurance about the position of current IRS officials, but the commissioner's comments on federal tax-exempt status for religious organizations do not establish legal authority on the matter and they are not the end of the story."

Michael Batts
certified public accountant

tus by the IRS because their sincerely held religious beliefs prohibit them from participating in same sex marriage."

Dan Busby, president of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability in Winchester, Va., told BP he still has concerns about how the IRS will handle objectors to same sex marriage in the long term. He cited Koskinen's statement to the Senate that "at this time, there is no basis for us to revisit tax-exempt status."

"Since IRS personnel change from time to time," Busby said in an e-mail, "statements couched with 'we do not intend' or 'at this time' give tax-exempt ministries little comfort for the future."



KOSKINEN

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

JUNE 2015

MEMORIALS

Waybe Thornton
Wiggins BC, Carthage
Ronnie Thrash
Branch BC
Mr. G. E. Turner
Arlington Heights BC
Molly Varnado
Bethel BC
Daniel, Dianne & Alissa Smith
Carolyn Waller
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Burnett
Mandy Walters
Whitesand BC
Mr. Cecil Washington
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Grissom
Rev. Jimmy Breland
Mrs. Alma West
Barry, Kim & Ben Lenard
Mrs. Sarah Wheat
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Bishop
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Blair
John Allan Whitehead
Mrs. Earlyn M. Mullins
Mr. Isaac Wiggins
Mr. Edwin M. Speyerer
Jaylen Winters
Mrs. Linda B. Vance
Sylvia Wood
Bunker Hill BC
Annie Jewell Wroten
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy B. Carruth
M. L. Wroten
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy B. Carruth
James Elbert Yarborough
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Wall
Robert Yates
Mrs. Patricia C. Duckworth
Mrs. Grace Young
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Brewer
Tyler Young
Mrs. Sheila Huffman

JULY 2015

HONORS

Justin Burns
Gatesville BC
Breanna Hinton
Gatesville BC
Frank Hinton
Gatesville BC
Willie Mae Hinton
Gatesville BC
Boyd Allen Hobbs
Mr. & Mrs. John Hobbs
Grady Merchant
Gatesville BC
Thelma Merchant
Gatesville BC
Michael and Marti Peeler
Mr. & Mrs. Percy J. Peeler
Bro. Tom & Mrs. Jane Sumrall
Jesse & Peggy Johnson
Lela Williams
Gatesville BC

JULY 2015

MEMORIALS

Past Fathers of Gatesville BC
Gatesville BC
Henrietta D. Albritton
Mr. & Mrs. Paul R. Brown
Helen Tucker Allen
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Burge
Ann Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Mr. T. F. Badon
Willing Workers SSC, Liberty BC
Mr. Charles Bailey Jr.
The Steve Weeks Family
George Allen Bardwell
N. Smith SSC, Pleasant Hill BC
Bette Dixon
Dot Barham
Mrs. Billie Lynn Arthur

Mrs. Jean Barker
Mr. & Mrs. George M. Eagle
Mr. Billy Barrett
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Hugh E. Bateman
Mr. Joseph Whittington
Bobby Ray Beeson
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Partie & Family
Mrs. Helen Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Polk
Willie James Bethany
Neshoba BC
Mr. Jim Boleware
Mr. & Dr. Herman L. Dungan
Mrs. Syble B. Lee
Mr. Jimmy Bradford
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Bradford
Mr. Richard S. Bradford Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Bradford
Don Brady
Mr. & Mrs. Krandal Howell
Mrs. Jean Brasfield
Mrs. Pam T. Poole
Mr. Rod Brasfield
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Bruton
John Breland
Springdale BC
Mr. Glen Brock
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
Clay Brown
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Ward
Henry Brown
Ms. April Brown
Jahazel Buckley
Mr. Ted Buckley
Mr. Dustin (Dusty) Allen Burns
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Jeremy Butler
Ms. Veleria Butler
Michael Butler
Mrs. Irene B. Lancaster
Ms. Brenda Burks
Ms. Maudean Carter
Don Callender
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Callender, Jr.
Jean Carson
Mrs. Edith M. Aldridge
Ira Carter
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humphreys
Phyllis Hope Case
Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Wooley
Stacy Chandler
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Alexander
Billy Dale Clanton
Carrollton BC
David Clifford
Stanton BC
Steve Cobb
Ms. Jennifer Ferrill Seal
Robert (Bob) Comerio
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick
Ms. Ireta W. Graham
Gary Conner
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Blair
Ellen Cook
Upper Room SSC, Neshoba BC
Mrs. Irma Cooper
Mrs. Hazle M. Daniels
Ms. Debbie Anspaugh
Mickey Corban
Mr. & Mrs. D. W. Reeves
Mr. James (Sonny) Cummings
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Alexander
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Danny Daniels
Mr. & Dr. Herman L. Dungan
Mr. Danny Earl Daves
Jimmie Denley Rankin
Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Keeler
Mr. & Mrs. Frank R. Willis & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Gowan Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. James Roy Hawkins
Sim & Joy Worley
Mr. & Mrs. Graham W. Cassibry
Rev. Dewitt Davis
Mrs. Mary D. Hartford
John W. Dawson
Stanton BC
Mr. Bill Develin
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. Jimmy Dickerson

Mr. & Mrs. George Morgan
Garveese Dillon
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Mendrop
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Martin, Sr.
Ms. Audrey L. Hill
Ms. Mary Goodin
John Dixon
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Bryson
Terry Donaldson
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Ward
Doris Barnett Ellis
Nancy Carol Gardner
Robert "Bobby" Embry
Mr. & Mrs. Rex Cowart
Mrs. Marie Etheridge
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Mrs. Frances F. Farmer
Mrs. Edith M. Aldridge
Lloyd Faunteroy
Mr. & Mrs. Morris E. Newton, Jr.
Cynthia Lee Finch
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph L. Carroll
Mrs. Leah Pace Ford
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Lorraine Foreman
Mount Pleasant BC
Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Fortenberry
Glen and Annette Fortenberry
Norma Fortenberry
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne R. Hall
Mr. Ingram Foster
Mrs. Syble B. Lee
Bob and Margie Fulgham
Fellowship BC
Dr. Tom Garrett
Mrs. Dora Patterson
Mrs. Vivian Gordon
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Bishop
Wylie Greene
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony DeLee
Myra Gwyer
Hon. & Mrs. Jess H. Dickinson
Mary Lee Hammond
Mrs. Betty Cryder
Chaplain Ron Harber
Robert T. Jeffries
Drew Harrington
Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Wooley
Carr and Susan Haskins
Mrs. Tena Haskins



A special thank you goes to **NORTHCREST BAPTIST CHURCH, MERIDIAN**, for building shelves for the Powell-Walley Campus in Waynesboro, through the "Love Out Loud" Project and to **DESOTO BAPTIST CHURCH, SHUBUTA**, for responding to an immediate need for diapers at this campus and delivering them to help stock these new shelves.

Emma Grace Hayes
Ms. Martha Moore
Mr. Edwards C. Henry
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph L. Carroll
Mrs. Betty (Jewel) Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Whitehead
Ms. Audrey L. Hill
Thomas Hill Jr.
Bovina BC
Mrs. Marie Hillman
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Brents, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion
Carl E. (Ed) Howard
Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. Howard
Valerie Huber
Mount Pleasant BC
Mrs. Dean Hudgins
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. Don Hughes

Steve and Teresa Calhoun
Mr. John Hyde
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
Thomas Jefferson Kendall
Casella BC
Mrs. Delores Lamb
Pilgrim's Rest BC
Mrs. Judy Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Alexander
Mr. Henry Lipsey
Eddie & Delia Speights
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hathorn
Mr. Bill Loveless
The Steve Weeks Family
Betty Conn and Martha Shackelford
Mrs. Irene B. Lancaster
Mrs. W. R. (Charlene) McCall
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humphreys

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

Redeeming Judgment • Revelation 9:1-12

One thing our family enjoys from time to time is going to the movies. The last couple of films we have seen together were Jurassic World and Inside Out. The first is an action/science-fiction type story and the other is a Pixar production that explores themes of behavior, emotions and even psychology. I can safely recommend both to you if you are so inclined. I do not know about you, but even at my age there is a certain excitement about going to the theater for a small getaway from reality. One thing that can snap you back into reality is taking a family of four to the movies and buying tickets and snacks for everyone. There should be a bank branch in theaters for the purpose of granting small loans!

We have for our text today a dramatic presentation like no other you have ever witnessed on the big screen. As you read Revelation 12, you can sense the unfolding story of something big. Revelation 12:1 reads, "A great sign appeared in heaven." This sign was a symbol pointing to something else. This is the first of

7 signs in the Book of Revelation. Like much of Revelation, symbolism is prominent and is not easy to interpret. However, it is not quite as challenging in this chapter due to the vividness of what John saw and the actions of the characters involved. Speaking of characters, there are 4 main ones in this chapter. The best way to teach this chapter may be that you look at the role of each and see the final result.

In the opening scene, we are introduced to a woman (symbolic) that is pregnant. A total of four women appear in Revelation. Jezebel, who represents paganism (2:20), the scarlet woman (17:3-6) symbolizing the apostate church, the wife of the Lamb (19:7) symbolizing the true church and this woman in 12:1-2.



Explore the Bible

with Bobby McKay

There are two popular thoughts in regards to what exactly this woman represents. Some adhere to the belief that the crown of 12 stars on her head indicate Israel and the 12 tribes. Those that teach this cite Genesis 37:9 where the sons of Jacob are depicted as "stars." The other popular view is that this woman represents

all believers regardless of ethnicity or national background.

The second figure we read about is the red dragon.

Satan himself. It is apparent through the reading of the text the dragon is the mortal enemy of the woman (believers). His desire is to devour the male child the woman is preparing to give birth to. The dragon is evil in its nature and murderous in his intent.

Revelation 12:5,6 is clearly referring to Jesus Christ. Not only is Christ the third character in this story, He is the hero. He, "was caught up to God and to His throne." This is a beautiful reminder of the life of Christ. It is an awesome picture of the incarnation, life, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. The dragon could not defeat Him! The schemes and plans of the Devil were no match for Son of God. God ruined Satan's plans and is victorious!

Michael, the angel, is the final character in our story. So far we have witnessed drama, horror, a super hero and now a battle scene. Let me give you a spoiler alert: it is not much of a battle, God uses Michael to whip Satan and knock him to the ground. Victory was won, but the war was not over. The dragon regrouped and makes plans for a future showdown. When the next time comes, the battle will be Satan's last. Come back next week for the unforgettable sequel and conclusion.

McKay is pastor of Harperville Church, Harperville.

Return to the Task • Acts 13:1-3, 44-52

My church does the neatest thing for our mission teams. The Sunday prior to each team's departure, while the choir sings, the mission team stands up front of the congregation. During the song, church members come by and say prayers over individual team members. These bold prayers of the faithful servants are the power behind each of these trips. This year we had teams to East Asia, England, Haiti and Singapore as well as Atlanta, Georgia. Our church family gave and gave and then they prayed and prayed and prayed. Although the trip participants did the actual physical going and doing, each trip represented the entire church of faithful prayer warriors. After the send off song concludes, we often weep with joy and excitement in the knowledge of the support and encouragement from our church family and many in our church family cries also, knowing that they are a part of changing eternity. In Acts, the Holy Spirit worked in the local church to send out missionaries.

The Gospel requires missionaries be chosen and sent (Acts 13:1-3)

One of the initial First Century churches was at Antioch. In Acts 11:19-26, Luke reveals that the church at Antioch was founded as believers settled in the city when persecution following the stoning of Stephen scattered the early Christ followers. Barnabas had been sent to Antioch by the church in Jeru-

salem because the leaders had heard of the church's growth. Barnabas was so excited over the work in Antioch he encouraged them to continue and went to Tarsus to get Saul* and they both journeyed to Antioch and began making disciples. Believers were first called "Christians" in Antioch.

*Paul was the Roman name for Saul and as Saul transitioned his ministry toward the Gentiles, he would be called Paul throughout the rest of Acts.

As the church at Antioch grew, others joined Barnabas and Saul in the teaching and discipling of converts. Simeon, Lucius and Manaen are mentioned by Luke. It is important to note than in vs. 2 Luke includes the phrase "as they ministered to the Lord and fasted" to communicate the faithfulness and intensity of the early church leader's devotion and commitment. It is important to note that as there was unity in ministry to the Lord, the Holy Spirit revealed that they should send Barnabas and Saul to advance the Gospel. The laying on of hands represented the anointing of God as well as the confirmation of the church at An-

tioc that Barnabas and Saul had been set apart for this mission!

The Gospel will often be rejected (Acts 13:44-47)

As Barnabas and Paul journeyed from city to city in the northern Mediterranean region, they came to Antioch of Pisidia, where Paul preached his first recorded sermon in the synagogue on a Sabbath. The sermon was well received, they were invited to come back the next Sabbath, but when a large crowd turned out, Luke

reveals that the Jews were envious, leading them to interrupt Paul's preaching. Not to be discouraged and filled with

Holy Spirit driven boldness, Paul confronted the Jews who had rejected the Gospel and announced that he would now turn his attention to evangelizing the Gentiles.

The Gospel boldly proclaimed will transform lives! (Acts 13:48-52)

As Paul continued to preach, Luke reveals that the Gentiles heard Paul's message of rebuke directed toward the Jews, recognized God's good will to-

ward them and that those who were led by the Holy Spirit to do so were converted at this time. The Gospel spread rapidly throughout the region, but the Jews who continued to reject the Gospel stirred up enough resistance to drive Barnabas and Paul away. In verse 51, the two missionaries responded as Jesus had taught in Matthew 10:14 by "shaking the dust off their feet" as they departed the region.

Walk

A church earnestly desiring to worship the Lord and advance the Gospel should be intentional about "ministering to the Lord" in unity. Ask God to reveal any attitudes in you that is a hindrance to unity in your local body of believers.

Run

As a church incorporates a Holy Spirit led and dependent presence within the body, God called leaders, ministers, and missionaries will be identified. How are you praying for God to call out leadership? How are you supporting those who are called from your church?

Soar

Are you called to serve in an area within your church? Community? Nation? World? Answer the call. Today.

Bowman is Minister of Connection, First Church, Brandon, and a speaker for women's events.

Bible Studies for Life

with Beth S. Bowman



Revivals & Homecomings

► **Escatawpa Church, Moss Point:** Revival, Aug. 21 - 23; Fri. - Sat., lunch meetings and 7 p.m.; Sun., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, speaker; Wayne Baggett, music.

► **Belle Fountain Church, Ocean Springs:** Revival, Aug. 23 - 26; Sun., 10:45 a.m., followed by potluck dinner and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Michael Wilkerson, speaker; Pete Harrell, music; Larry Darden, pastor.

► **Beulah Church, Lexington:** Revival, Aug. 23; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. nightly; Hoyt Ainsworth, speaker.

► **Double Springs Church, Maben:** Revival, Aug. 23 - 26; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Jordan, speaker.

► **Bethel Church, Copiah Association:** 148th homecoming, Aug. 23; worship, 11 a.m., fol-

lowed by fellowship meal; Van Windom, speaker; Tyson Windom, pastor.

► **Sunrise Church, Leake Co.:** Revival, Aug. 23 - 26; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, Stephen Evans, Mark Vincent, Justin Fisher, speakers; Jeremy Fortenberry, music.

► **Euclatubba Church, Saffilo:** Homecoming, Aug. 23; sing-

ing with Picking Up the Pieces, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by meal; Jimmy Russell, speaker.

► **New Hope Church, Tupelo:** 169th homecoming, Aug. 23; Sunday School, 10 a.m., followed by worship and covered dish meal; Rickey Blythe, speaker; Lowell Johnson, pastor.

LifeWay Research: Evangelicals back Israel

NASHVILLE (BP) — American evangelicals remain among the strongest supporters of the nation of Israel. Among pastors, 80% say Christians need to support Israel.

Those are among the findings of a study of American attitudes toward Israel and the Bible released recently by Nashville-based LifeWay Research, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Researchers conducted two separate surveys of 1,000 Americans as part of the study last fall, along with a survey of 1,000 senior pastors of Protestant churches.

"No piece of literature has had more impact on American culture than the Bible," said Scott McConnell, vice president of LifeWay Research. "No country is more intertwined with the ancient biblical narrative than Israel, and evangelical Americans see a contemporary connection with the nation."

God and Israel

Researchers found evangelicals see a close association between God and Israel. Sixty-nine percent say the modern nation of Israel was formed as result of biblical prophecy. A similar number (70%) say God has a special relationship with the modern nation of Israel. Seventy-three percent say events in Israel are part of the prophecies in the Book of Revelation.

While evangelicals remain convinced about the connection between Israel and God's plans, Americans in general are less certain. Forty-six percent believe the formation of modern Israel is a fulfillment of biblical prophecy. Thirty-six percent disagree, while 17% aren't sure.

Americans are split over whether Jews are God's chosen people as referenced in the Bible, with just under 46% saying they agree. Forty-four percent disagree, while 10% are not sure.

Some Americans think God was closer to ancient Israel than to the modern-day nation. Sixty-four percent of Americans say God had a "special relationship with ancient Israel." Twenty-seven percent disagree, while nine percent are not sure.

In contrast, only 48% of Americans say God has a special relationship with modern Israel, fewer than the 53% of Americans who believe God has a special relationship with the United States, according to previously released LifeWay research. Thirty-nine percent disagree that God has a special relationship with modern Israel, while 13% are not sure.

Evangelicals (70%) are much more likely to agree than Americans who don't identify as evangelicals (38%).

Overall, 47% of Americans believe events in Israel are tied to the Book of Revelation. Forty

Methodology

The first phone survey of Americans was conducted Sept. 19-28, 2014. The second phone survey of Americans was conducted Sept. 26-Oct. 5, 2014. The calling utilized Random Digit Dialing. Sixty percent of completes were among landlines and 40% among cell phones. Maximum quotas and slight weights were used for gender, region, age, ethnicity, and education to more accurately reflect the population. The completed sample is 1,000 surveys. The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 3.5%. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups. Those labeled evangelicals consider themselves "a born again, evangelical or fundamentalist Christian."

The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted Sept. 11-18, 2014. The calling list was a stratified random sample drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister, or priest of the church called. Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population. The completed sample is 1,000 surveys. The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 3.1%. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

percent disagree, and 13% are unsure. Younger Americans, those ages 18-24, are less likely (36%) to see a tie between Israel and the Book of Revelation than those ages 45 and older (52%). Women (52%) are more likely to agree than men (42%). Those with graduate degrees (24%) are much less likely to agree events in Israel are part of the prophecies in Revelation than those with a high school degree or less (55%).

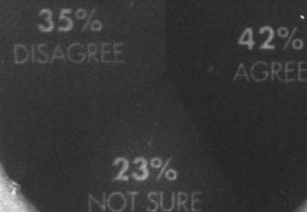
Modern Israel

When Americans are asked whether they support Israel's statehood, 42% agree, while 35% disagree. Twenty-three percent are not sure. Their view is affected both by their schooling and by their view of the Bible and prophecy. Higher levels of education correlate to higher levels of support for Israeli statehood. Those with a graduate degree are most likely to be supporters at 61%, followed by those with a bachelor's degree (56%), those with some college (43%) and those with a high school diploma or less (31%).

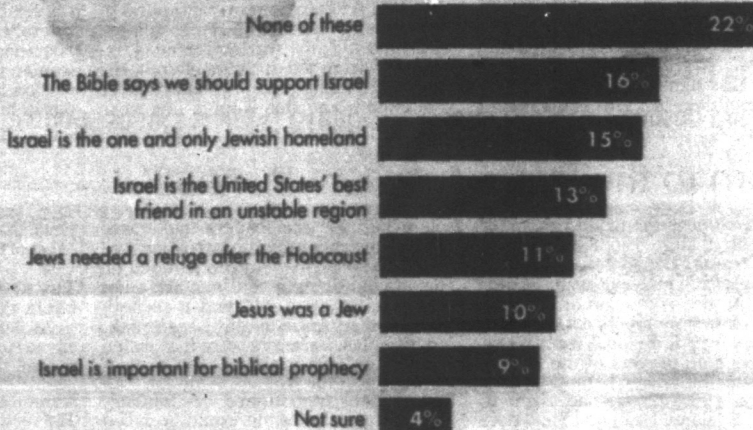
Supporters are split on the reasons they back Israel. Six-

AMONG AMERICANS

I support Israel's statehood.



What is the primary reason you support Israel's statehood?

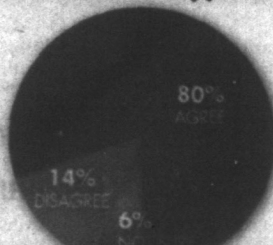


LifeWay

LifeWayResearch.com

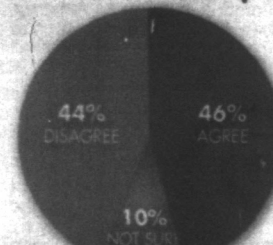
AMONG PASTORS

Christians should support Israel.



AMONG AMERICANS

Jews are God's chosen people.



teen percent say the Bible tells them to, while nine percent say it's because Israel is important for biblical prophecy. Thirteen percent say they support Israel primarily because Israel is America's best friend in the Middle East. Others say it's because Jews needed a refuge after the Holocaust (11%) or because Israel is the one and only Jewish homeland (15%).

Zionist?

Though the term, "Zionist," is synonymous with believing that Jews should have their own state, only eight percent of Americans claim this label. Thirty-two percent of Americans are not sure whether they are Zionist.

Among the most ardent of Israel's supporters are senior

pastors of Protestant churches. Eighty percent agree with the statement, "Christians should support Israel." Fourteen percent disagree. Even though they support Israel, some pastors have their doubts about Israel's military actions. Forty-one percent agree with the statement, "It is hard to defend Israel's military tactics." Fifty percent disagree, while nine percent are not sure.